

Certain activities in navigable waters are exempt from needing a permit under chapter 30, Wisconsin Statutes. Using this checklist, you can determine if your project qualifies for an exemption.

Your proposed **fish crib** is eligible for an exemption if your project will meet all the following conditions:

- ☐ The fish crib may not be located in an area of special natural resource interest (ASNRI) – see the Designated Waters Search on DNR’s website to determine if your waterway is an ASNRI or has another special designation.
- ☐ The fish crib may be placed and maintained only by a riparian, and shall be placed entirely within the riparian’s zone of interest.
- ☐ The fish crib must be placed solely for the purpose of improving fish habitat.
- ☐ The riparian shall report the placement of the structure to the local department fisheries biologist within 30 days after placement. The report shall contain a description of the project and its purpose, the name of the waterway and a map showing where the structure was placed.
- ☐ A deposit of sand, gravel or stone may be associated with the placement of a fish crib provided the deposit is limited to the area immediately underneath or within one foot of the structure and is less than 2 cubic yards.
- ☐ Dredging is not allowed for the placement of a fish crib.
- ☐ To protect fish habitat during spawning seasons, the fish cribs may not be placed during the following time periods:
 - (a) For trout streams and perennial tributaries to trout streams, September 15 through May 15.
 - (b) For all waters not identified in (a) and south of State Highway 29, March 15 through May 15.
 - (c) For all waters not identified in (a) and north of State Highway 29, April 1 through June 1.
- ☐ Fish cribs shall have a minimum of 5 feet of water over the top of the structure. The depth and clearance of the fish cribs shall be based on the normal lowest water level condition in a calendar year.
- ☐ Fish cribs shall be constructed of biological materials, with the exception of fastening and anchoring devices.
- ☐ The dimensions of a fish crib shall be no larger than 8 feet tall by 8 feet long by 8 feet wide.
- ☐ Fish cribs may not be placed within 100 feet of swimming beaches or swim rafts.
- ☐ Fish cribs may not be located in soft sediment or muck that is greater than 12 inches in depth.
- ☐ Fish cribs may not be placed where the bottom contour of the waterway exceeds a slope of 4-foot horizontal to one-foot vertical.
- ☐ Proper erosion control measures shall be used during installation (to prevent soils from eroding into the waterway), removed after work is complete, and any disturbed areas restored.

If your project does not meet all of these conditions, submit a permit application to the Department. If you have any questions about whether you meet these conditions, you may request an Exemption Determination from DNR. Obtain Form 3500-107, “Chapter 30 Exemption Determination Request” from a DNR service center, or download it from our website at www.dnr.wi.gov under the topic “Waterway and Wetland Permits.” Complete the form and submit it to the DNR office identified on the form.